

**City's 1st New High School In 10 Years 'Looks Nice'**  
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# City's 1st New High School In 10 Years 'Looks Nice'

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"It's nice, man. It looks nice (for) a new school," said Michael Hudson, 17. "I just don't like the location. It's difficult for us to get here if you don't have no transportation."

With the black liberation colors of red, black and green adopted as the school's own, the \$10 million, eight-story Howard D. Woodson High School opened yesterday in the Deanwood section of Northeast Washington with a promise to offer the latest in educational innovation.

Talks with administrators, teachers and students showed the major problems were malfunctions of new equipment—the escalators didn't work—and transportation, to be expected at any school serving all of Far Northeast Washington.

Woodson also takes transfer students from near Northwest Washington and from some sections of Southeast as well. Hudson drove his mother's car to school yesterday, but if he has to take the bus, it will mean three bus rides every morning from his home at 715 Chaplin St. SE, he said.

The school, at 55th and Eads Streets NE is named for a black engineer and is the first new public high school in the city in 10 years.

So many 10th and 11th graders volunteered to go to the school that enrollment is ex-

pected to reach 1,300 this fall, 140 students more than anticipated, principal Napoleon B. Lewis said. As there will not be a 12th grade until next year the extra students will not cause overcrowding, Lewis said.

The day began with an assembly in which Lewis asked students not to deface the school and pledged an education tailored to individual students.

"The whole curriculum here is very attractive, because we tried to do what people always said we're supposed to do: cater to the needs of the child," Lewis said.

The school has the largest library of any city public school, and a \$25,700 federal grant has enabled it to launch a "school-within-a-school" in which eight teachers, a counselor and an assistant principal supervise 250 students, Lewis said.

The escalators, which were supposed to transport students to any of the eight stories, or to the pool and gymnasium in the basement, didn't work yesterday, so most everyone used the elevators run by community aides.

"If plant and physical atmosphere can promote in-

terest of the students, this is it, right here," said Marie C. Thompson, an 11th grade teacher. "I've never seen anything like it."

The teachers all volunteered to teach at the school, and even then they were screened by the school's administrative staff.

As Lewis sees it, they have to be up to the challenge.

"I tell my teachers, 'be merciful. If a child sits at your feet a certain number of times and he hasn't learned anything, I look at you. I don't look at the child. Good teaching will offset a whole lot of handicaps.'"

Among other innovations Lewis mentioned were advanced college-credit courses; reading labs for those who fall behind in reading; "contract learning" where a student can agree with a teacher to receive a grade and move at his own pace to get it; and permitting students to skip classes in which they are ahead and to catch up in those where they are behind.

"I want to get more black kids in the difficult disciplines," said Lewis, a 6-foot-5, 240-pound former football player at Morgan State College.